

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B2  
1. A connecting apparatus for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing comprising:

a cable sleeve adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable;  
a guide having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the guide supports the cable sleeve so that the cable sleeve moves toward the first end portion and the second end portion; and  
a biasing device for biasing the cable sleeve toward the second end portion of the guide.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first end portion of the guide includes a mounting portion for fixing the guide to a mounting member.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the mounting portion includes a threaded surface.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second end portion of the guide is adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable therein.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the cable sleeve is disposed within the guide, and further comprising a lid disposed at the second end portion of the guide for retaining the cable sleeve within the guide.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the biasing device comprises a spring disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve.

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7. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a brake lever bracket, wherein the first end portion of the guide is mounted to the brake lever bracket.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7 further comprising a brake lever pivotably connected to the brake lever bracket.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the second end portion of the guide is adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable therein.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the cable sleeve is disposed within the guide, and further comprising a lid disposed at the second end portion of the guide for retaining the cable sleeve within the guide.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the biasing device comprises a spring disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve.

12. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a bellows disposed at the second end portion of the guide, wherein the bellows is adapted to sealingly engage the outer casing of the control cable.

13. An indicating apparatus for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing comprising:

a guide adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable;

an indicator adapted to be retained to the outer casing of the control cable for movement therewith; and

a window for viewing the indicator.

14. An indicating apparatus for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing comprising:

a guide adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable;

an indicator adapted to be retained to the outer casing of the control cable; and

indicia supported by the guide for cooperating with the indicator to indicate a position of the outer casing of the control cable.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the indicia is disposed on a window.

16. A connecting apparatus for a first control cable having a first inner wire that slides within a first outer casing and a second outer casing, and a second control cable having a second inner wire that slides within a third outer casing and a fourth outer casing, the apparatus comprising:

a bracket including:

a first support for supporting the first outer casing;

a second support for supporting the second outer casing;

a third support for supporting the third outer casing; and

a fourth support for supporting the fourth outer casing;

a connecting member for connecting a portion of the first inner wire located between the first outer casing and the second outer casing to a portion of the second inner wire disposed between the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing, wherein the connector moves together with the first inner wire and the second inner wire; and

position confirmation means that allows the position of at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first support and the third support are disposed at a first end portion of the bracket, wherein the second support and the fourth support are disposed at an opposite second end portion of the bracket, and further comprising a biasing device for biasing the connecting member toward the second end portion of the bracket.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a bracket casing mounted to the bracket, wherein the play confirmation means allows the position of the at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed based on the position of the at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing relative to the bracket casing.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second support and the fourth support are disposed inside the casing, wherein the play confirmation means allows the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed based on the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing relative to the bracket casing, and wherein the bracket casing includes a window for viewing the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing.

SUBC 20. The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the window includes indicia for indicating the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing.

21) A bicycle brake apparatus comprising:

a front braking device having a front braking member that is spaced apart from a front braked member to produce front brake play;

a front brake operating device;

a front brake cable having a front inner wire that slides within a front outer casing, wherein the front inner wire is coupled to the front brake operating device and to the front braking device;

a rear braking device having a rear braking member that is spaced apart from a rear braked member to produce rear brake play;

a rear brake operating device;

a rear brake cable having a rear inner wire that slides within a rear outer casing, wherein the rear inner wire is coupled to the rear brake operating device and to the rear braking device;

a cable connecting unit connecting the front inner wire to the rear inner wire so that the front inner wire moves together with the rear inner wire; and

front and rear play confirmation means that allows the front brake play and the rear brake play to be visually confirmed based on the movement of the front outer casing and the rear outer casing relative to the cable connecting unit when the front brake operating device and the rear brake operating device are not being operated.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the play confirmation means is disposed on the cable connecting unit.

23. The apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising:

a cable sleeve adapted to receive the outer casing of one of the front outer casing and the rear outer casing;

a guide having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the first end portion is coupled to one of the front brake operating device and the rear brake operating device, and wherein the guide supports the cable sleeve so that the cable sleeve moves toward the first end portion and the second end portion; and

a biasing device for biasing the cable sleeve toward the second end portion of the guide.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the biasing device comprises a spring disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve.

25. The apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising a brake force adjusting mechanism for adjusting a braking force applied by at least one of the front braking device and the rear braking device.